

named after an island with historical significance on Lake Champlain—was launched in 2011. Not only has it proven more efficient, it has resulted in enormous cost savings for his department and others throughout Vermont that have since adopted it.

But perhaps most important, Chief Schirling has been a leader in understanding the importance of community policing. He stepped up foot patrols around the neighborhoods, stressing the importance of public engagement. He hosted community outreach events, including barbeques and monthly coffee sessions. He developed data-driven policing efforts to track the hot spots for crime. He implemented a street outreach program in coordination with the local mental health agency. The list goes on, but it is fair to say that the work of Chief Schirling will leave its mark on our State's largest city for many years to come. Chief Schirling recognized the value of 21st century policing long before we heard the term. For these reasons, I have often called on Chief Schirling to share his experience and ideas in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. His guidance on issues of critical importance, including his support for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program, has been invaluable over these years.

Chief Schirling and the Burlington Police Department recently marked the 150th anniversary of the department, and I was grateful to be a part of that celebration. As he prepares for retirement, I have no doubt there is another chapter for Chief Schirling still to be written. I will eagerly await his next move.

#### LGBT VETERANS MONUMENT AT LINCOLN NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this Memorial Day weekend, as our country remembers and honors those who have served America, a national cemetery in Elwood, IL, will make a distinguished mark on our Nation's history. Lincoln National Cemetery will become home to the Nation's first monument honoring fallen Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, LGBT, veterans.

A recognition of our fallen LGBT service members is long overdue. This monument serves as a testament to those members of our military who have shown devotion to their country in the eyes of discrimination. It is in their memory that we move toward a more just and equal future.

The monument comes nearly 4 years after the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. With repeal, our country took a step to move past the prejudices of the past and toward a day when all Americans can serve the country with honesty and pride. This monument recognizes that service with a fitting dedication that reads:

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people have served honorably and admirably in America's Armed Forces. In their memory and appreciation of their selfless service and sacrifice this monument was dedicated.

This monument serves as a reminder to all of us that it is our job to envision and create a more just and equal nation where there are no prerequisites to serve your country. All of our servicemembers join the military to serve America and make the world a better place. We must honor that service by making sure we continue to uphold those values of equality and justice at home that they have fought for abroad.

#### COMMEMORATING NORTH CAROLINA'S VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, this Memorial Day weekend is the 56th anniversary of Charlotte Motor Speedway's annual tribute that brings together more than 110,000 guests to celebrate our military patriots and reflect on their service and sacrifice. This event has remained one of the largest military recognition initiatives on Memorial Day weekend for more than five decades, honoring members of our armed services, veterans, Medal of Honor recipients, and remembering our fallen. This year's celebration continues their longstanding tribute by showcasing military aircraft in a patriotic flyover, infantry and artillery exhibits, ground demonstrations of our Nation's military strength, and a 21-gun salute to our fallen.

Our servicemembers courageously stand between America and those who would do us harm, volunteering to make the ultimate sacrifice to preserve freedom. I commend all of those in the racing community for their continued support and annual tribute to our men and women in uniform.

#### RECOGNIZING HOMEFRONT HEROES

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, May is recognized as National Military Appreciation Month. In addition to a time when we honor the men and women who wear our Nation's uniform, we must also remember our military families who make tremendous sacrifices.

These husbands and wives support our troops at home, during training missions and deployments. Military spouses are essential to the wellbeing of our service members and the strength of our national defense. We honor them with a special day honoring their role—National Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

Arkansas is home to thousands of military personnel. Their spouses are the homefront heroes who serve our country out of uniform. I asked Arkansans to share the roles their spouses play in their military career. I want to highlight some of the ways Arkansas National Guard spouses support their partners' call to service.

MSG Tracy Onassis Hayes and her husband, Cedric, have been married just over 1 year. Master Sergeant Hayes says her husband had no idea

what he was getting into when he married a soldier. He has had to deal with the early mornings, late nights, and long weeks of her being away from home all while taking care of their 15-year-old son Ke'cy and making certain he gets to school, practice and all his other events while Master Sergeant Hayes travels out-of-State for training. He also makes sure the family pets are well cared for all while maintaining a traveling choir of over 30 children. Master Sergeant Hayes shared with me:

He makes it look easy. My husband's support of the past year has made serving a whole lot less stressful. I am very thankful for his love and support. He is my hero. Thank you Cedric for your commitment.

Naomi Howard is familiar with military life as the daughter of CW4 Arthur Troy. The military also paved the way for her love connection to her husband SFC James Howard. The couple met after James attended the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR, briefing given by Naomi upon his return from deployment to Egypt. The couple spent the first 14 months of their marriage apart while James was deployed with the HHC 39th IBCT to Iraq.

In 2004, the couple settled into a routine life in Cabot, AR, with James serving on Active Guard/Reserve duty, and Naomi working as a civilian at the National Guard Bureau Professional Education Center. In 2007, James deployed to Iraq again and was away from home for more than 1 year. James told me:

During this time Naomi did an amazing job raising four young children on her own. Since then, Naomi has continued working at the National Guard Bureau's Professional Education Center and supporting me in my continued military service. Being in the military requires long hours and time away from home, yet my wife has continued to support me, more than I could have ever imagined.

Not only is she a strong support for her husband and children, but she is doing this all while working and attending college as a full-time student. She was named to the Central Baptist College President's List for Fall 2014 for maintaining a 4.0 GPA. "She juggles more than I could ever imagine and she excels at doing so," James said.

Wanda Thomen has been married for 28 years to Deputy Commander CPT Rex Thomen of the 61st CST/WMD and is a mother of two children, Myranda and Phelan. Wanda served as an active duty airman and was honorably discharged in March 1998. Her prior service experience helps her to understand both sides, as a servicemember and as a spouse. She previously served as president of the Auxiliary of the National Guard Association of Arkansas whose motto is "The Other Half." She also worked as the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Family Readiness Support assistant. She has been supportive during deployments, injuries, illness, and everyday activities as her husband continues his military career and

Wanda continues to give back to the troops and their families.

Thank you to Cedric, Naomi, Wanda, and all of our military spouses for your support at home while your loved one is away defending our Nation. We thank you for your dedication and commitment to our Armed Forces, your family and extended military family.

#### HONORING WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to welcome some of West Virginia's most outstanding citizens to Washington. This week, as part of the fifth annual Always Free Honor Flight Program, we will recognize veterans from my home State for their dedicated commitment to our country. In light of West Virginia's proud tradition of military service, it gives me great pleasure to honor these brave men and women who answered the call of duty during America's hour of need.

Since its inception, the Always Free Honor Flight Program has taken up the important task of thanking those to which we owe our deepest gratitude. As the daughter of a World War II veteran, this is something very near and dear to my heart. This year, we are joined by 29 Vietnam, Korea and World War II veterans from all across southern West Virginia.

These brave patriots sacrificed the comforts of home to defend the cause of freedom in a foreign land. The perseverance of our soldiers during these conflicts cannot be overstated. These individuals embody the extraordinary sacrifice exhibited by our service men and women throughout the greatest conflicts of the 20th century.

One veteran on this year's trip, SGT John M. Watson, Jr., who served with the renowned Tuskegee Airmen, will be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal for his service during World War II.

In addition to Sergeant Watson, West Virginia veterans participating in this year's Always Free Honor Flight Program include Joseph F. Graham, Bluefield, WWII; Staff Sergeant Robert Graham, Hinton, WWII and Korean war; First Sergeant Melvin L. Grubb, Bluefield, WWII and Korean war; Staff Sergeant Robert G. Kushner, Charleston, Korean war; Airman First Class Herbert R. Dickerson, Beckley, Korean war; Corporal Billy G. Cooper, Milton, Korean war; Corporal James W. Bennett, Charleston, Korean war; Richard L. Graham, Beckley, Korean war; Petty Officer Second Class William B. Sowers, Princeton, Korean war; Petty Officer Third Class Charles E. Turley, Scott Depot, Korean war; Colonel Jack E. Fincham, Brenton, Vietnam war; Sergeant Philip Templeton, Milton, Vietnam war; Petty Officer Second Class John W. Fleming, Princeton, Vietnam war; Master Sergeant Edward F. Simmons, Bluefield, Vietnam war; Airman Second Class Nancy J. Sim-

mons, Bluefield, Vietnam war; Sergeant Fred R. Smith, Hurricane, Vietnam war; Sergeant Marshall G. Mann, Princeton, Vietnam war; Sergeant James R. Bond, Midway, Vietnam war; Senior Airman Allan D. Harbour, Princeton, Vietnam war; Sergeant First Class Andrew J. Thompson, Bluefield, Vietnam war; Captain Charles H. Mann, Athens, Vietnam war; Seaman Thomas E. Caruso, Lashmeet, Vietnam war; Sergeant Gordon L. Caldwell, Jr., Bluefield, Vietnam war; Lance Corporal Ricky D. Williams, Beckley, Vietnam war; Senior Airman Mary Byrd, Nitro, Vietnam war; Corporal Johnny L. Sanson, Cyclone, Vietnam war; Sergeant Dennis C. Hurley, Cyclone, Vietnam war; Corporal William Cox, Bluefield, Vietnam war; and Corporal William L. Harry, Butler, TN, Korean war.

Veterans participating in the Honor Flight as "guardians" include Command Sergeant Major Kevin L. Harry from Milton; Sergeant First Class Mark A. Harry from St. Albans, and Specialist Selena K. Barker of Milton. These men and women are voluntarily dedicating their time to helping ensure that our veterans receive the thank-you they deserve.

A great debt of gratitude is also owed to Dreama Denver, president of the Denver Foundation and Little Buddy Radio. These nonprofit organizations, which were founded by Dreama and her husband, Bob Denver, established the Always Free Honor Flight Network in West Virginia.

I am so proud of the service and sense of duty that defines the American people. As the beneficiaries of that service, one of the most sacred tasks we hold is properly honoring the dedication of our veterans. In bringing them together with the symbols of their sacrifice, we can express our unyielding gratitude while demonstrating our lasting commitment to preserving their memory. One of the greatest honors of serving in the United States Senate is representing citizens who have given so much to their country. I take seriously the duty of ensuring that their sacrifice is honored with the same steadfast conviction with which they defended the rights and freedoms of every American. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming and thanking these exceptional West Virginia veterans.

#### RECOGNIZING KAREN LOVE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Karen A. Love upon her retirement from the Department of Defense, DOD, after over 36 years in civil service.

Karen was born in Greenville, OH and later moved to Ansonia, OH. She spent most of her formative years in Celina, where she attended the Immaculate Conception School, Celina Junior High School and Celina High School.

After graduating magna cum laude from college, Karen moved to Wash-

ington, DC to begin her career. She first worked for the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and then moved to the Senate Armed Services Committee. While working for the Armed Services Committee, Karen had the privilege to work for chairmen on both sides of the aisle including John Stennis, John Tower, Barry Goldwater, and Sam Nunn.

After 8 years as a staffer on Capitol Hill, Karen joined the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, OASD LA. She subsequently served as the personal and confidential assistant to six successive OASD LAs. As a result of her tenure in OASD LA, Karen was one of few DOD employees with significant institutional knowledge of both DOD and Congress.

Because of her unique expertise, Karen was promoted to the position of Deputy for Legislative Operations in OASD LA, managing congressional committees' questions and inserts for the RECORD, the congressional reporting requirements, and the legislative appeals process for DOD. Karen's last position with DOD was as the Deputy Director for Operations for the OASD LA, where she was instrumental in the oversight of the office's operations in support of the DOD's legislative mission and was a critical participant in the legislative affairs consolidation effort directed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

During Karen's distinguished career of over 28 years with DOD, she supported eight Assistant Secretaries of Defense for Legislative Affairs and served under eleven Secretaries of Defense.

I am honored to recognize and thank Karen for her dedicated Federal service to the country and wish her the best as she begins the next chapter of her life.

#### SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to honor the city of South Bend on its 150th anniversary and to recognize the many contributions of South Bend's citizens to the great State of Indiana, to our country and the world.

South Bend's history stretches back to the 1600s, when the St. Joseph Potawatomi settled along the future St. Joseph River. European settlers established fur trading posts in the early 19th century. Soon after, Father Edward Sorin arrived and founded the University of Notre Dame. Less than a decade later, in 1851, the first train passed through South Bend and development and economic growth soon followed. The town of South Bend became the city of South Bend on May 22, 1865, when it was granted a city charter.

The city of South Bend quickly became a manufacturing leader and continues to innovate to this day. In 1852, Henry and Clement Studebaker opened the H&C Studebaker blacksmith shop.